

**HANSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING AUGUST 2, 2023  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, HANSON TOWN HALL  
542 LIBERTY STREET, HANSON, MA 02341**

Called to Order at 7:00 pm under M.G.L. c131, §40 and the Hanson By-Law 3-13, §5 and Rules and Regulations by Phil Clemons., Chairman, Selectmen's Meeting Room, Hanson Town Hall, Hanson, MA. This meeting of the Hanson Conservation Commission is audio-recorded.

**Present:** Phil Clemons, Chairman  
Thomas Roffey, Jr., Vice Chairman  
David Mansfield, Clerk  
Edwin Heal, Member  
Stephen Smith, Member  
Chris Hoffman, Associate Member  
Frank Schellenger, Agent  
Lan Woodward, Administrative Assistant

**Also Present:** Ryan Joseph, Arthur Street  
Chick Gerke, Woodman Terrace  
Frank Milisi, Hanson Recreation Commission

**Minutes**

July 19, 2023

**Motion to approve minutes of July 19, 2023 by:** Thomas Roffey, Jr.

**Second:** David Mansfield

**Vote:** 4-0-1

**Public Hearings**

**7:00 PM Request for Determination of Applicability** for removal of nine trees on property, adding landfill, and fence installation within 100' of bordering vegetated wetlands at 29 Arthur Street, Map 16, Lot 10C, for Ryan Joseph. **(New Hearing)**

Mr. Mansfield read the Public Hearing Notice and green cards were verified.

Mr. Joseph presented plans to the Commission. He stated that he has ¼ acre lot and it tapers into wetlands. He has a dog and would like to install fence and add landfill, roughly 200 yards and removal of nine trees. Mr. Joseph also created a revised proposal which has a separate outline that includes 5 yards of fill instead of 200 yards, and a fence line closer to the house.

Agent Schellenger visited the site. It is a new house and the 50' buffer zone runs at an angle through the corner of septic system. The erosion control barriers are still there from when house was built. Agent Schellenger had a concern about fence all the way to the property line because of wetlands. He suggested that filling in yard to the originally proposed fence was probably excessive for an RDA and a Notice of Intent would be required.

Chair Clemons stated that if you follow the line of the existing straw wattle, it will still give about 80% of property being with a fence. He does not see tree removal as an issue.

Commission is favorable to the idea of the proposed 5 yards of fill and having fence installed along straw waddle.

Chair Clemons asked if there were any questions, comments.

**Motion to issue variance to work within the 50' buffer zone by:** Thomas Roffey, Jr.

**Second:** David Mansfield

**Vote:** 5-0-0

**Motion to close hearing and issue a Negative 3 Determination subject to special conditions for proposed revised plan by:** David Mansfield

**Second:** Thomas Roffey, Jr.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

**7:15 PM Continued Notice of Intent** to construct two bituminous concrete roadways with two cul-de-sac turnarounds, associated sidewalks, underground utilities, and drainage structures to create frontage for a nine-lot definitive subdivision located within 50' of bordering vegetated wetlands at 0 County Road, Map 74 Lots 7 and 8, Meadow Brook Farms, formerly Fern Hill Estates, for Burrage Farms LLC, represented by Morse Engineering Company, Inc., PO Box 92, Scituate MA 02066. (DEP #SE175-0750)

**\*Member Roffey recused himself from the hearing**

**Hearing continued to August 16, 2023 at 8:15PM per request of Applicant**

#### **Discussions**

**Upcoming Meeting Dates;** August 16<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **October 2023 Town Meeting Articles – Due August 6, 2023**

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the Town will vote to amend General By-law 2-9 "Financial", section 3E "Authorized Revolving Funds" to add the following revolving fund to the Table:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Authority to Spend Funds</b>	<b>Use of Funds</b>	<b>Fiscal Years</b>
Conservation Mitigation	Mitigation Fees	Conservation Commission	Mitigation for Buffer Zone Disturbance	Fiscal Year 2023 and Subsequent Years

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** In certain cases, when applying for a permit under the Wetlands Protection Act or the Hanson Wetlands Protection By-law, the applicant is not able to avoid disturbance to the 50-foot no-touch buffer as required by the by-law. In these cases, mitigation is required for the variance, usually in the form of additional plantings (shrubs, trees). Sometimes however, the applicant is unable to place additional plantings on the lot; this revolving fund allows the Conservation Commission to accept funds in lieu, and to use the funds to place plantings on Town-owned property where they will be valuable for conservation purposes.

**Motion to sponsor Article 1 for October 2023 Town Meeting by:** Thomas Roffey, Jr.

**Second:** Stephen Smith

**Vote:** 5-0-0

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to place the properties identified as Assessors Map 67, Lots 15 and 15A into the care and custody of the Conservation Commission for open space protection under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** These lots on the northern side of West Washington Street bracket the Shumatuscant River and are the historical site of a dam that served the 1700s Moore's Forge and later mill activities. The lots are an important wetland and riverine resource that provides stormwater storage, treatment, and aquifer recharge, as well as wildlife habitat. The parcels identified in the article are currently Town-owned. Article 97 protection will ensure this resource area is protected for the foreseeable future.

**Motion to sponsor Article 2 for October 2023 Town Meeting by:** Edwin Heal

**Second:** David Mansfield

**Vote:** 5-0-0

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to place the properties identified as Assessors Map 88, Lots 7 and 8 into the care and custody of the Conservation Commission for open space protection under Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, or take any other action relative thereto.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** The lots are an important wetland resource that provides stormwater storage, treatment, and aquifer recharge, as well as wildlife habitat. These parcels are a large part of the Zone II recharge area for the new well off Old Pine Drive. In addition, these parcels are one of the headwaters of Oldham Pond, and they contain Spring Brook and another tributary stream. These streams and Oldham Pond are Class A waters (i.e. contributing to a surface water supply), and they are part of a cold water fishery (the Herring Brook watershed), one of the few in Southeastern Massachusetts. The parcels identified in the article are currently Town-owned. Article 97 protection will ensure this resource area is protected for the foreseeable future.

**Motion to sponsor Article 3 for October 2023 Town Meeting by:** Thomas Roffey, Jr.

**Second:** David Mansfield

**Vote:** 5-0-0

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from free cash or raise and appropriate \$30,000.00 to replenish the Conservation Fund.

Proposed by the Conservation Commission

**Explanation:** The Conservation Fund supports the Commission's efforts to carry out its care and custody responsibilities for open space and recreation areas. These efforts include trail building and maintenance; provision of signage, notices, and other information; property enhancements, such as mowing, invasive vegetation removal, and site clean-up; wildlife habitat and stream improvements; removal of encroachments; establishment of bounds and survey recordings; and equipment rental as necessary to support these activities.

**Motion to sponsor Article 4 for October 2023 Town Meeting by:** Thomas Roffey, Jr.

**Second:** Stephen Smith

**Vote:** 5-0-0

**Conservation Properties Status;** No new update.

**Property Management Update;** Trash removed at properties as needed.

**Smitty's Bog;** Weeds cleared at kiosk. Telephone number obtained to contact owner of Duck Blind.

**Smith-Nawalzelski;** Trail cleared of poison ivy.

**Poor Meadow Brook;** Tree removed, landings are needed.

**Bonney Hill Trail;** Trails were cleared where needed. Knotweed issue. The Meadows need mowing.

**Open Space Acquisition;** No new update.

**Trail Maps;** No update.

### **Cranberry Cove Stormwater Management Plan Update**

Recreation Chair Milisi stated that Chessia Consulting can no longer complete the Cranberry Cove Stormwater Management Plan. It will be completed next year. They would still like to proceed in some way with tree plantings in October/early November this year.

Chair Clemons is concerned because the Commission would be just guessing, not knowing, and would not want to proceed entertaining a plan to do work at Cove without a Stormwater Management Plan. The Commission cannot promise the plantings would not have side effects. It is awkward for the Commission to take calculated risks. The Cove area is subject to every regulation that the Commission has to enforce.

Chair Milisi stated that the Recreation Commission is aware of the chances. A Notice of Intent will be submitted.

### **Request to approve a minor modification to the plan for 64 Woodman Terrace, Map 70, Lot 56, DEP# SE175-0744 – requires vote**

Agent Schellenger notified Commission that request includes a change to septic system location. The original plan has it up on hill; requested modification is to flat surface and having a gravity system used. The Order of Conditions stated that any changes would need Conservation Commission approval. The system is outside 100' buffer zone and not an issue and no additional trees would be taken down. It is a minor modification because it does not impact area where there is Conservation jurisdiction.

**Chick Gerkie, 64 Woodman Terrace** – The nature of the second modification is simple; the plan called for a block at top of bank in front of house. They are proposing instead to use a 2X12 that would require cutting a slit in bank and dropping board in knowing it would eventually rot away. They intend to continue with landscaping plan.

Agent Schellenger stated that the bank is already stable and there is already growth there, so there is no need for the block or the plank.

**Motion to approve Minor Modification to plan as described by:** David Mansfield

**Second:** Stephen Smith

**Vote:** 5-0-0

### **Request to approve a minor modification to the plan for 150 Woodman Terrace, Map 70, Lot 61, DEP# SE175-0723– requires vote; Paperwork was not submitted in time for meeting.**

### **Compatible Use Agreement(s)**

NRCS The Compatible Use Agreements (CUA) for Smitty's Bog for Trail Mowing expired.

**Motion to request signature of Town Administrator for NRCS Compatible Use Agreement for Smitty's Bog Trail Mowing by:** David Mansfield

**Second:** Thomas Roffey, Jr.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

### **Old Business/New Business**

**Invoice for Public Hearing Notice (Hanson Express) 29 Arthur Street, Map 16, Lot 10C, Request for Determination of Applicability – signed**

**Invoice for MACC Membership(s) (MACC) FY2024 Renewal(s) – signed**

**Invoice for MSMCP Membership (MSMCP) FY2024 Renewal – signed**

**Invoice for Bonney Hill Trail Appalachian Mountain Club) for Boardwalk Construction – revision needed**

**Motion to adjourn at 9:06 PM by:** David Mansfield

**Second:** Edwin Heal

**Vote:** 5-0-0